

**School & Library Network  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2000**

Members Present: Bill Black, Phil Lindley, Reginald Palmer, Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Ed Gomes (for Greg Scott), John Vedral, Art Henry (for Barry Crommett)

Member Absent: Barry McCrum

1. Minutes. Minutes from the March 29, 2000 meeting were approved.
2. Update on Governor's Technology Initiative. Ed Gomes reported that provisions for the Maine Learning Technology Endowment were enacted as part of the Supplemental Budget signed with law by the Governor on April 25, 2000. P.L. 1999, ch. 731. This will allow \$30 million to be invested by the Maine State Retirement System "for the advancement of learning technology" for elementary and secondary students." A Task Force is established consisting of 4 members chosen by the President of the Senate, 4 from the Speaker of the House, 6 from the Governor, the Commissioner of Education, and the Commissioner of Administration and Finance. The Chair of the PUC or his designee is a non-voting member. Their first meeting must be by August 31, 2000. They will recommend a plan to the Legislature for the "structure, oversight and operation of the Fund" that will take effect with the start of the school year 2002-2003. They must file a report with the Legislature by Dec. 15, 2000, including a plan and proposed legislation.
3. Status of ATM. Ed Gomes explained that validation at five sites continues: Milo, Guilford, Dexter, Maine State Library, and Shibles Hall Orono, University of Maine. There have been complexities that neither party recognized upon contracting. In particular the scheduling program is a unique feature. This means each site can schedule use without going through a central scheduler. DOE still plans to have 20 sites fully operational by the start of the school year 2000, with an additional 26 to be operational shortly thereafter.  
  
There was discussion about the MSLN subsidiary of \$358 per month that is currently being provided to ATM sites. Joanne questioned this payment if the connection was only being used for data. Art Henry will provide information at the next Board meeting about the sites being paid \$358 per month for ATM.
4. Status of Federal E-Rate. Edna Comstock reported that Maine has received \$1.478 million in the first 4 waves for year 3. A total of 8 waves are expected, with all grants made by the end of May.

5. Results of Tech Coordinator Survey. Reggie Palmer, Phil Lindley and Bill Black reported on the results of the survey sent to technical coordinators about perceived needs under the new Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund. A summary appears on the Commission's Website at [janus.state.me.us/puc/sandlbrd.htm](http://janus.state.me.us/puc/sandlbrd.htm).
6. Discussion of Proposed Rules for Implementing Telecommunications Education Access Fund. Joanne described the proposed rule and order opening rulemaking that the Commission will consider at its Deliberative Session on May 15, 2000. The proposed rule provides a framework for implementing 35-A M.R.S.A. § 7104-A but leaves the specific details on funding levels and the services to be supported, to an annual determination by the Commission. The rule provides that at a minimum, sites will receive discounts to allow them to continue to receive the services they receive under the MSLN project. A hearing on the proposed rule will be held in June 15, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission. Written comments will be due by July 7, 2000.

The next Advisory Board meeting will be on June 21, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the Maine State Library, Dexter High School, and the University of Maine in Orono, over the ATM Network.